



On a Mission to Provide Affordable Housing to Those in Need

EVELYN CATALAN HAD ALWAYS known she was destined to help people, so it came as no surprise she would find a career within the affordable housing industry.

“Ever since I was a little girl, I always wanted to help people who were less fortunate,” she said. “I always got in trouble for giving away my personal possessions.”

Her first job in the industry in 1988 was as a secretary of a small but success-

ful nonprofit developer where she was exposed to the affordable housing industry. After a couple of years she transitioned into property management and since 2007, has been at MidPen Property Management Corporation where she is the director of property operations, central office, which is located in Foster City, Calif. Catalan oversees compliance of the regulations for 100-plus communities primarily in Northern California, as well as the training of property management staff.

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 “I’m a mission-driven person. I feel a great deal of fulfillment and accomplishment when I’m contributing to a cause and housing being such a great need is that cause for me,” she said. “The mission at MidPen is to provide safe, affordable housing of high quality to those in need. It’s that mission that keeps me going.



and Denver jurisdictions. Our goal is to create ongoing dialogue in order to address mutual concerns,” she said. “We also want to be a hub of knowledge for our members and we want to continue to form strategic partnerships within the industry.”

Besides earning her Bachelor of Science in international business from Golden Gate University, she is working on becoming a Certified Property Manager (CPM) and has already earned her Housing Compliance Manager and Certified Occupancy Specialist certifications.

Catalan is married with two daughters, both in their 20s. When she isn’t working, you can find her hiking or just being outdoors. She also likes hot yoga, reading and spending time with her family. **NN**

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“This is my third job managing affordable housing communities since 1990 and I am more engaged than ever before. What keeps me here is the fact that I’ve always wanted to help people and be a part of a larger cause,” she said. “You are exposed to different issues every day as well as to different individuals internally and externally with the same goals of making a difference in housing.”

She said that while the area has many successful nonprofit developers creating affordable housing, there are still plenty

of people needing a safe, affordable place to live.
 “I’m a mission-driven person. I feel a great deal of fulfillment and accomplishment when I’m contributing to a cause and housing being such a great need is that cause for me,” she said. “The mission at MidPen is to provide safe, affordable housing of high quality to those in need. It’s that mission that keeps me going.

That’s why I look at what I do as I get to do this, not I have to do this.”
 In addition to trying to make a difference in residents’ lives, Catalan is making a difference for affordable property management staff as the president of AHMA-NCH, where the association is striving to be a strong voice in the industry.

In March, the association was named AHMA of the Year, as well as received the AHMA Innovation Award, both in the small-size AHMA category. The Innovation Award was given for its collaborative meetings with HUD and industry stakeholders that provide updates on the western Region 5 transition progresses and serve as a vehicle to be able to provide feedback to HUD staff in the San Francisco hub. The model is now being replicated with the state Housing and Community Development and California Tax Credit Allocation Committee.

“We’re really proud of this partnership and we are expanding it to the 14 states under the San Francisco Regional Center

Welcome New Members

NAHMA welcomes the following new members as of May 3, 2017.

EXECUTIVE

Bobby Griffith, JL Gray, Albuquerque, N.M.

Jack Sipes, Dominion, Plymouth, Minn.

AFFILIATE

Joseph Nowicki, Chatham Financial Corporation, Littleton, Colo.

Rick Peppers, IGS Energy, Dublin, Ohio